

March 7, 2000

TO: Federal-State Management Group

FROM: Mary Selkirk

SUBJECT: Meeting Outcomes, March 7, 2000

The following is a brief summary of outcomes from the CALFED Federal-State Management Group meeting held on Tuesday, March 7, 2000.

1. Announcements

- Draft Integrated Storage Investigation Report - Mark Cowin, CALFED Water Management Program Manager, offered draft copies of the ISI report, which he recently received from Naser Bateni, DWR. Naser is scheduled to provide a full briefing on the report to the Management Group next week. Patrick Wright suggested the cover page be changed to designate CALFED as the author, rather than DWR.

Outcome: Steve Ritchie and Steve Macaulay would resolve the designation issue by the end of the day.

- Budget Hearings - There will be a legislative budget hearing for DWR tomorrow and one for Resources Agency on Thursday. Patrick said they will go into each of those meetings with one set of budget figures on the various CALFED programs, including storage. Patrick and Steve Macaulay would discuss it further in the afternoon.
- State Water Resources Control Board - Jerry Johns reported that last week the Board held a workshop on two decisions to be considered on March 15, 2000: (a) Modification of the Natomas wording changing the wording "Water conservation efforts to that save water" ; and (b) a much more complicated modification to Decision 1641. Jerry said the Board is not required to send these out in draft, but finds it gives them a last shot at suggesting changes before it is formally considered.

2. Status Report on Final Programmatic EIS/EIR - Rick Breitenbach, Environmental Compliance Program Manager, said the project is progressing on the revised schedule. Steve Ritchie said they are going to be ready to go to print on April 24 in anticipation of the mid-May release date.

- Central Delta Intakes - The San Joaquin River intake near McDonald Island has been removed from consideration. Tracie Billington had spoken with Darryl Hayes, substituting for Ron Ott, who said that proposal was removed on the basis it appears impractical. CALFED staff will provide a complete report on this issue next week.
- Implications of delay in the ROD for CALFED contracts - Mary Scoonover reminded everyone that CALFED cannot take actions that affect the environment until the ROD is

signed. She warned that CALFED needs to restrict its project activities to feasibility study and scoping levels in order to avoid appearing predecisional. Before checks for conjunctive-use projects are issued, the ROD will need to be in place. This is also why water acquisitions have not been made to date.

Jerry Johns said they have been doing projects that are beneficial to the environment and felt there could be some projects that may not require the ROD. Mary explained CALFED must avoid being accused of piecemealing projects. Patrick asked how the Water Bond money would fit into the picture, since the money is there for CALFED to do projects. Mary said if projects are identified in the programmatic EIS/EIR, then they can be done; otherwise site specific EIS/EIR's will need to be written.

Ryan Broddrick added that there is a problem with perception if we say we cannot do a project in an area where we have already spent millions of dollars. Mary explained she is talking about the conjunctive use projects because these are the first ones out. Mark Cowin said the entire grant for the conjunctive use is for only \$2 million.

3. **Status of State-Federal Discussions** - Steve Ritchie said there was a good discussion with Secretary Babbitt last week in Sacramento. Those discussions did not include operational issues. Alf Brandt said they were able to identify ten CALFED items to be accomplished, one of which is resolving EWA. Steve added they have gone into a package/suite concept, rather than the bundle concept. There will be another high-level meeting at the end of this month.

Steve added they distributed one-page summaries of Stage 1 actions as shown on Table 3.1. Tracie said those summaries are contained in Chapter 6 of the Implementation Plan, which was distributed last month. Tracy said she had not received any comments back and would check to make sure everyone received their copies.

Outcome: By the end of the week, Tracie will send copies of Chapter 6 to each of the Management Group.

Perry said they had a meeting with Susan Hoffman and wondered if there were going to be further discussions. Alf said there will be further discussion but on a smaller level.

4. **Interim Governance: Transition to Implementation** - Kate Hansel, CALFED Finance and Governance Program Manager, distributed a three-page summary of CALFED Interim Governance and Program Implementation plans. She reviewed each item and asked if anyone might have any suggestion as to how her group can work with Management Group.

There was a legislative hearing last Tuesday with Mike Machado which focused more on fixing the current process than on the long term. The feeling was that the current process needs to be fixed to improve confidence.

Kate relayed there are good feelings among the stakeholders about the ERP independent science review panel. There was suggestion that changes be made to program elements to be more explicit; i.e., No Name Group.

Regarding a new public advisory group, there was stakeholder discussion on feasibility of having a two-year termination clause for a possible new commission. Discussion continues as to number of people who will be on the new commission. The goal is 10-15 members and they would like to not go much beyond that number. Patrick suggested the commission be modeled as closely as possible on the proposed long-term structure, because it is his experience you are not able to reduce the number.

Outcome: CALFED staff would develop a summary, similar to the one Kate distributed, which would contain descriptions of current functions, protocols (as basis for interim agreement) and distribute to Management Group in two weeks.

5. **Status of Public Land Ownership report** - CALFED staff Ray McDowell briefed the group on the Bay-Delta Watershed Public and Conservation Lands Status and Trends Report, which is being compiled to report information about historical, existing and proposed conservation land ownership and land use in the Bay-Delta Watershed. It is to be used as a planning tool to support conservation and restoration planning and implementation.

Mike Spear, held up an article on the urbanization of the agricultural lands in the Central Valley, USA Today, March 1, 2000 (attached). The Central Valley ranks No. 1 in U.S. farm regions threatened by development.

Ray was careful to explain there were a number of things the project will not provide: a definitive accounting of conservation land ownership or use; parcel-level survey; and information about every public/conservation parcel. The data will not be used for: detailed habitat maps of all public/conservation lands; modeling of suitable species habitat; and detailed local planning. The goal would be to assemble existing public and conservation land ownership; identify existing stewardship and use/cover of government and conservation lands; and identify potential future efforts of California restoration programs.

The geographic areas to be considered are: Delta and Suisun; Bay and San Joaquin Valley Floor; Sacramento Valley Floor; and Upper Watersheds

The tentative milestones are: (1) Draft Report on Existing Public Ownership for Delta-Suisun Region by Spring 2000; and (2) Draft Report(s) on Existing Public Ownership for Bay and San Joaquin Valley Regions - Summer 2000. The second set of tentative milestones is: (3) Draft Report on Existing Public Ownership for All Regions (except upper Watersheds) - Winter 2000; and (4) Public Draft Status and Trends Report for Entire Bay-Delta Watershed - Spring 2001

Data sources will include: Important Farmland (DOC) - Farmland Conversion; Wetlands, Riparian, Ag. GIS Database (DFG); Land Use/Cropping Patterns (DWR); and Public Land Ownership (UCSB/Teale Data Center).

Analysis will include: Cross Tabulation - Valley Floor Public Land Ownership & Important Farmland; Cross Tab - Valley Floor Public Land & Land Use/Cover; and Cross Tab - by County or Region

The project will entail a number of critical needs: continued GIS and land cover/use staff support from agencies; ownership and land use/cover data; staff time to review draft map and database products and status and trends assumptions/analyses.

Patrick reaffirmed the Resources Agency Secretary's commitment to develop a comprehensive land ownership and use mapping of the Bay-Delta Watershed.

6. **CMARP/IEP** - Perry Herrgesell and Larry Smith have been working on a concept of developing a consolidated Bay-Delta Science Center. Steve Ritchie has a draft of memo to IEP. Perry said that they would like more serious talk at Management Group level as to how to proceed. They would like to come back and give a report and give an update on areas on a science center as to:

- Location of the science center: close enough to CALFED and close enough to the Delta.
- Funding sources needed
- Developing timeline and schedule. Everyone knows this cannot happen overnight. It will take several years. We need to start the process
- Determine the extent of agency interest
- Assess stakeholder interest
- Develop functions and objectives for the center
- Assess how it would relate to governance

Perry asked for approval and asked if they wanted to see a feasibility report.

Larry Smith said there are a number of unresolved questions as to how the science center relates to the CALFED process. Generally it is agreed it is a good idea to house them together; but may not be good to insulate the scientists from the agencies.

Significant discussion ensued as to the status of the overall science program for CALFED. Some members of the group stressed the need to clarify the details of CALFED's science program before moving ahead on securing a building site.

Outcome: Perry and Larry would put together by the end of the week a list of key science issues/tasks to be completed by June, prior to the ROD. They will bring this plan to the Management Group next week.

Agenda Items for March 14, 2000:

1. Report back on Central Delta intake proposal
2. Report on State-Federal discussions
3. Report back on science program tasks
4. Report on DWR Draft Progress Report on Integrated Storage Investigation: North of Delta Offstream Storage